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# THE HEYDONS

IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA

A Fragment of Family History

*THE RESULT OF A FEW DAYS' RESEARCH IN THE  
BRITISH MUSEUM*

BY THE

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## CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTORY, . . . . .	5
II. THE HEYDONS IN ENGLAND, . . . . .	7
III. THE NORFOLK LINE, . . . . .	12
IV. THE WATFORD BRANCH, . . . . .	26
V. THE DEVON LINE, . . . . .	30
VI. THE AMERICAN BRANCH, . . . . .	41

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY.

WERE an apology required for preparing this fragmentary sketch, it might be found in the practice so much abounding of late, of giving attention to matters of genealogy. It is a growing custom in New England to print family histories. The present essay, however, is not the result of long premeditated design; nor would it have been undertaken at the expense of much time or labour. But the materials for it having been prepared to his hand by others, and been thrown so directly in his way from a number of widely different sources without effort on his part, that a refusal to put them on record for the benefit of those who may be interested in them, at length began to appear to the writer something like an omission or a neglect of opportunity.

It may be proper to state that the principal impulse to this undertaking has been imparted by letters of inquiry received from others of the same name, and by a visit to Old England. In this country such details are far more matters of publicity than in America, and therefore are more



easily accessible. Nearly everything since the Norman Conquest has been printed, from Domesday Book downwards; records of every sort, state papers, parish books, land transfers, funereal monuments, etc., and can be readily turned to and examined. In the published works on genealogy, also, may be found drawn out the pedigrees of nearly every family that has held estates, or had an interest in the soil, for many hundred years. All one has to do is to step into the great rotunda of the British Museum, and take down from some of its 3000 "presses" the requisite volumes of parish or county history, or other record, in order to discover what he may wish to know, or, at least, nearly everything knowable in this direction. In the principal lines of descent all the individuals appear in their places, one generation after another, from century to century; birth, baptism, marriage, issue, arms, estates owned, offices filled, title, death, burial, and will, all appearing in regular succession.

Besides the private information volunteered him by interested persons, the compiler has drawn his materials mainly from the following works:—Blomefield's "History of Norfolk," 11 vols. 8vo; Clutterbuck's "Antiquities of the County of Hertford," 3 vols. folio; Westcote's "Pedigrees of Devonshire Families;" Chauncey's "Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire," folio; Prince's "Devon Worthies;" "The Norfolk Tour," 2 vols.; Weever's "Funereal Monuments;" the "Parliamentary and State Papers, Domestic Series;" Ditto, "Colonial Series;" Cornish's "Notes of the Parish of





Ottery St. Mary ;" "Domesday Book," 3 vols. folio ; "Records of Massachusetts Bay Company ;" "The Vinton Memorial" (Boston) ; Gurney's "Record of the House of Gourney," 2 vols. 4to ; and has added some things from personal observation. Considerable care has been necessary to gather the items from the scattered materials, to harmonize apparent discrepancies and weave them into a continuous narrative, no attempt of the kind having been made before in England or America.

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## CHAPTER II.

### THE HEYDONS IN ENGLAND.

"An ancient family, belonging to the Order of Knights," the books say. The precise position occupied by them in the Norman immigration has not been distinctly made out. The difficulty of tracing them arises from a want of knowing the title by which they were known before the present Sir-name became attached to them. According to the authorities they acquired the name of Heydon from the town of Heydon, in Norfolk, where they were first seated, and where lay their original estate. Says Blomefield (vol. vi. p. 241)—"The town of Heydon, or Haydon, is not known by that name in Domesday Book, but was then in Eysford Hundred, and was called Stinetuna, or Stinton. The town was about a mile long, and half as much broad. The present name of Heydon, or Haydon, as it is commonly



called, signifies the *high down*, or *plain on the hill*, which is agreeable to its situation. It is in the liberty of the Duchy of Lancaster. The seat and demesne were called Heydon Hall and Manor, *alias* Stinton Hall and Manor. Heydon and Stinton manors were subsequently divided. The regal settlement of Heydon Manor makes the eldest son heir."

The town of Heydon lies about fourteen miles a little west of north from Norwich, the shire town of Norfolk County. The lands there, according to Domesday Book (vol. ii. p. 157), were, at the time of the Conqueror's survey, under the lordship of one Whither, a Saxon, from whom the Conqueror took them, bestowing them upon the Earl of Warren—William de Warrena. The Heydons must have had their tenure from the Warrens, as adherents or retainers of theirs. Very early we find them intermarried with the Warrens, also with descendants of the Conqueror, with the Says, Mowbrays, Longevilles, Gurneys, Boleyns, etc., etc.

And from the "Norfolk Tour," 2 vols., under the same head, we learn that "the church at Heydon is St. Peter's, now St. Peter's and St. Paul's. Population of the parish in 1829, 333. It had a weekly market, kept on the market green, on the south side of the church. The church is a good regular building, with a handsome square tower, and three bells. The font was erected probably about the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries; it is of a circular form, standing upon circular neckings, of ovolos and cavetoos of the style which prevailed from the time of King John (1200) to Edward III. (1370). The windows, which are much



defaced, were formerly adorned with the figures of many saints, confessors, martyrs, etc., and in the north window was a representation of some young profligates condemned to the infernal regions, from which issued in scrolls twelve moral sentences and a lamentation.

“Here are inscriptions to the memory of Heydons, Kempe, Colfer, Batchelor, the Earles, and Gallant. Heydon Hall, in the style of Henry VIII. (1581), is (1829) the seat of William Earle Lytton Bulwer, Esq.,” the elder brother of the novelist.

From the notes of Thomas Heydon, Esq., Solicitor, No. 9 King’s Road, Bedford Row, now living, I learn that “the Heydons of Norfolk, by Sir William Heydon, sold this property to the Bulwers in the 9th year of Queen Elizabeth,” 1567. It came first to the Dynes, and afterwards to the Bulwers.

Blomefield, vol. vi. p. 244, under the heading, “Heydon cum Membris,” remarks: “The ancient family of the Heydons took their name from this town, where they originally sprung; but as their chief residence when in full prosperity was at Baconsthorp, I design to speak of them at large under that place.” Baconsthorp is a small parish and village of some 250 inhabitants, about five miles north of Heydon, and nineteen miles from Norwich. We shall follow them thither in our next chapter, when we come to speak of the Norfolk branch or line.

The family comes into public notice early in the thirteenth century in the person of Thomas de Heydon, resident at



Heydon, and "a justice itinerant in Norfolk in 1221;" reign of Henry III. From him the several lines appear all to have proceeded. They do not seem to have been numerous at any period of their history. The principal branch, in the persons of the eldest sons, remained in Norfolk, inheriting the estates at Heydon, Baconsthorp, and elsewhere; while a branch, in the line of a second son by the name of John de Heydon, settled in Devon, in the reign of Edward I., 1273; and another branch, a few generations later, under Edward III., about 1375, removed to Watford, near London, in the county of Hertford.

From these points they have spread, sparsely, into a few other counties, Suffolk, Surrey, Kent, Warwickshire, Bedfordshire. But the history is mostly confined to the three principal lines. They were lovers of locality, their habit being to fasten in the soil and remain there for many generations until something came to disturb their tenure.

Their favourite occupation appears to have been the law; they figure as judges, sheriffs, magistrates of different degrees, barristers, and, very largely, as the administrators of wills and the managers of estates. They appear also frequently as commanders and officers in the army; less frequently as deans and rectors in the Church; and only occasionally as members of the medical profession, and as artists.

For most of their time they stood well with the sovereigns, being loyal and conservative in their dispositions. Consequently they were trusted by the monarchs, and were much in office. In the Wars of the Roses they became staunch ad-





herents of the House of Lancaster, and at the Reformation sided with Henry VIII., becoming active agents in furthering his plans. Hence during the reigns of Henry VII., Henry VIII., Edward VI., Queen Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., they were favourites at Court, and took the side of the latter monarch against the Parliament. In consequence of the civil wars, their large estates became encumbered, which in some instances led to pecuniary embarrassment.

As a rule, they have been staunch churchmen, pious and devoted in their way ; the builders, repairers, and endowers of churches ; friends of the clergy, respected for their moral characters, the advocates of advanced views, benevolent in disposition, promoters of good order and charitable benefices.

They appear with marks of honourable distinction in the graduating lists of both the great universities, Cambridge and Oxford, and have produced a number of authors, whose works cover a variety of subjects, but among which that of theology predominates.

Notices of them appear so frequently in the minuter annals of the British realm, that any one so disposed might, without any great amount of research, compile a voluminous history ; and, I have no doubt, trace with accuracy the personal biography of nearly every prominent member of each of the lines. But the object of the present *brochure* is brevity, with the tracing out of a single direct line.



## CHAPTER III.

## THE NORFOLK LINE.

1. THOMAS DE HEYDON, of Heydon, in South Erpingham; justice itinerant in Norfolk County in the reign of Henry III., 1221: born, probably, about A.D. 1185; and died, probably, about 1250. The office of "*Justice in Eyre*" was a commission held directly from the King, having appellate jurisdiction of superior cases, to save going up to Westminster.

2. William Heydon, of Heydon, Esq., eldest son and heir of the above, and who succeeded him in the estate at Heydon: was no doubt the father of John de Heydon, the judge, and ancestor of the Devon line; as the Devon authorities state that the judge was a younger son of one of the Norfolk family; and the judge flourished in 1273. This William, born, probably, about 1220, died 1272. His eldest son,

3. William, also of Heydon, succeeded him. He lived at Heydon in the reign of Edward I., from 1272 to 1307, and was the elder brother of the judge: died about 1307.

4. Simeon Heydon, of Heydon, his son and heir, succeeded him. Simeon had two sons, David, the elder, and heir; and Sir Richard Heydon, who entered the army in Edward III.'s time, and, in the days of the Black Prince, engaged in the wars then carried on in France, where he was killed, about A.D. 1370. Richard appears to have been the ancestor



of the Hertfordshire branch, which settled at Watford about 1375. Simeon was succeeded by

5. David Heydon, of Heydon, who married Margarette ———, and had by her, his son and heir,

6. Hugh Heydon, of Heydon, who married Alice, daughter and heiress of Loverds, by whom he had the manor of Loverds, in Heydon, and whose arms, *argent*, a pair of wind-mill sails *sable*, was quartered by the Heydons. By Alice he had his heir,

7. William Heydon, of Heydon, Esq., who succeeded him, and married Isabel, daughter of John Moore, of Norwich. Gent., by whom he had, as heir and successor,

8. Robert Heydon, Esq., of Heydon, who married Cecily, daughter and heiress of Robert Oulton, of Oulton in Norfolk. Esq., an eminent lawyer in the reign of Henry IV. (1399 to 1413), “whose arms, quarterly *vert* and *gules*, a lion rampant *argent*, over all, the Heydons were quartered.” He was succeeded by his son and heir,

9. William Heydon, Esq., of Loverds and Heydon, who married Jane, daughter and heiress of John Warren, of Lincolnshire, “whose arms, chequer *or* and *azure*, on a canton *gules*, a lion *argent*, is also quartered by the Heydon family.”

He was the first of the family who settled at Baconthorpe, having purchased a moiety of the manor of Woodhall in that town. He flourished in the reign of Henry V.: that is, from 1413 to 1422. He is buried in the chapel in the north end of the church in Baconthorpe, with this epitaph—



“O Jesu tolle a me quod feci,  
Et remaneat mihi quod tu fecisti ;  
Ne pereat quod sanguine tuo redemisti.”

This inscription is now destroyed. He was succeeded by his son and heir,

10. John Heydon, of Baconsthorp, “a lawyer of eminent practice and dignity in the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV.” (1422 to 1480), “whereby he much advanced the estate and fortunes of his family ; being also a *jeeoffee* and trustee of most of the great estates in this county (Norfolk) ; in 1431 he was made Recorder of Norwich ; in 1442 he obtained a patent from King Henry VI., that he should not at any time be called to the degree of a serjeant-at-law, being in singular favour with that Prince for his attachment to the House of Lancaster. In 1447 he was executor of the will of Joan Lady Bardolf, and to that of Sir John Clifton, Knight, Buckenham Castle.”

“In 1446 he purchased Pateslee Manor, and the moieties of the manors Heddenham and Kelling ; and in 1464 appointed by the will of Lady Isabel Moreley counsellor to her executors ; in 1472 Walter Lyhert, Bishop of Norwich, left him by will, his cup, that he daily used, of silver gilt, with the cover. He married Eleonor, daughter of Edmund Winter, of Winter Berningham in Norfolk, Esq.,” by whom he had one son, Henry. No other children mentioned.

He “was buried in a chapel which he built for a burial-place for himself and family, on the south side of the cathedral (in Norwich), joining to the present consistory on





the west, now (1805) in ruins. He and his family have been great benefactors of this cathedral, as their arms in many places testify.

“ By his last will he gave to the prior and convent all that they owed him, on condition that they erected a tomb for him. He died in 1480 (his will being proved that same year), possessed of the lordships of Baconsthorp, Loschel, Bosham, Broche's in Salthouse, Loverd's in Heydon, Saxlingham, Oldton Hall, and Leche's in Oldton, Thursford, Walsingham Magna, Bakenham's in Carlton Road, Hocnam Parva, Laundes in Tibenham, Pentsthorp and Hackford with Repham, called Heydon's Manor, there.”

11. Sir Henry Heydon, Knight, of Baconsthorp, was son and heir of the above; he married Ann, daughter of Sir Jeffrey Boleyn, Knight, Lord Mayor of London (consequently she was aunt to the Anne Boleyn who was Henry VIII.'s second queen, and mother of Queen Elizabeth); by whom he had three sons and five daughters: (1) Sir John Heydon; (2) Henry Heydon, Esq.; (3) William, who was slain in Kett's insurrection, 1549, and buried in St. Peter's Church, Mancroft, Norwich; (4) Amy, married to Sir Roger le Strange, Knight; (5) Dorothy, married to Sir Thomas Brook, son and heir to John Lord Cobham; (6) Elizabeth, married to Walter Hobart, of Hales Hall, Esq.; (7) Ann, wife of Wm. Gurney, Esq.; and (8) Bridget, wife of Sir Wm. Paston, Knight.

He was steward of the house of Cecilia Duchess of York, widow of Richard Duke of York, father and mother of



Edward IV., and made by her supervisor of her will, with orders to see her buried in Foderinghey collegiate church by the side of her husband. He was also chief bailiff of the honor of Eye. In 1497 an exchange was made between him and William Burdwell, jr., Esq., who settled Witchingham Manor, in Salthouse and Kelling, on Sir Henry, while he gave to Burdwell, in return, his manor of Drayton Hall, in Scarning and Dillington. He was also Lord of Dorkethye, in Snoring Parva.

"He built the hall or manor-house at Baconsthorp, a spacious, sumptuous pile, entirely from the ground (except the tower, which was built by his father), in the space of six years; also the church and noble house in West Wickham, in Kent; which place he purchased before the death of his father, and dwelt there; and it continued in the family till the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The church at Salthouse was also built by him, and the causeway between Thurstford and Walsingham was made at his expense. In 1443 the moiety of Hyde Manor, in Pangborn, Berkshire, the moiety of Nutfield, in Surrey, and the moiety of Shipton Solery Manor, in Gloucestershire, were settled by John Armstrong on the said Sir Henry Heydon and Ann his wife as her inheritance. He died in 1503, and was buried beside his father in Heydon chapel, in Norwich Cathedral."

In the "Norfolk Tour," vol. iv. p. 1042, we find, in relation to the above two gentlemen: "In the Norwich Cathedral, amongst the other celebrated persons whose place of sepulture is in this church, may be noticed John Heydon, Esq., a great



favourite of Edward IV., and Sir Henry Heydon, Knight, who built, at his own expense, Salthouse Church, in the beginning of the reign of Henry VII."

12. Sir John Heydon, of Baconsthorp, eldest son and heir of the above, "was created Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Henry VIII. (1509): he was a great courtier, and is said to have lived profusely in his father's time, but afterwards became much reformed." He married Catherine, daughter of Christopher Willoughby, Lord Willoughby of Parham: they had several sons, the eldest, Sir Christopher; the names of the others are not mentioned; also four daughters, whose names, with the marriages they made, are all given in Blomefield. In the reign of Richard II., Robert Belknap, Lord Chief-Justice of the Common Pleas, forfeited to the Crown his manors of West Wickham, Baston, Keston, and Southcourt, in Kent, all of which had in the meantime come into the possession of the Heydons; but Sir Edward Belknap, the heir, having been reinstated in "blood and lands" by the Parliament in the 7th of Henry VIII. (1516), Sir John had to repurchase them all of him.

In 1520, under Henry VIII., he was one of the commanders of the famous Field of the Cloth of Gold, when Henry received from Francis I. the noted shield, executed by Benvenuto Cellini, and still preserved in the armoury of Windsor Castle as the most valuable piece in the collection. He also attended the King at Gravelines, and in 1522 was sent by him to meet the Emperor Charles V. at Dover.

His lady deceased at 72, A.D. 1542; he died August 16,



1550, in his 82nd year, and both are buried under an altar-tomb in the north aisle of Norwich Cathedral. In 1803 the brass plates had disappeared, but these arms are still remaining:—Quarterly, *argent* and *gules*, a cross, ingrailed, counter-changed, Heydon quartering Warren and Oldton, and impaling Willoughby, *or*, fretly *azure*, with the crest of Heydon, a talbot, passant ermine, and motto—"Regardes que Suyst, de Virtue null male."

13. Sir Christopher, eldest son of the above, married Ann, daughter of Sir John Heveringham, Ketteringham. He had four children—John, who died young, Christopher, who continued the line, and two daughters, whose names and marriages are given in Blomefield. He died before his father in 1540, and therefore,

14. Sir Christopher Heydon, his son and heir, inherited, in 1551, from his grandfather on his decease. "He was held in great esteem and veneration for his many excellent qualities, particularly for his justice, charity, and remarkable hospitality, equal to his ample estate. He is said to have entertained thirty head or master shepherds of his own flocks at a Christmas dinner at Baconsthorp." He was known as "the great housekeeper" in the county. He married in succession three wives, by whom he had three sons, William, Henry, and Christopher, and four daughters. He caused the entails on his estates to be broken, apparently from a sense of their injustice, and so divided them among his children. He is buried in the south aisle chapel of the church in Baconsthorp. Blomefield gives a full account of him, his wives,





the daughters and their marriages, with the arms and inscriptions on their tombs, appending a formal list of no less than forty-six manors or estates of which he died possessed. A glance at the map of Norfolk will show the domains must have extended from Baconsthorp to the sea, and, on the coast, from Holt to Cromer. We shall not follow the collateral branches, but only the main line of this family.

15. Sir William Heydon, eldest son and chief heir of the above, succeeded him at Baconsthorp. He was one of the deputy-lieutenants of Norfolk, a justice of the peace, admiral of the admiralty jurisdiction, and High Sheriff of the county. He married Lady Ann Woodhouse, of Hickling, and had three sons, Christopher, William, and John. "By engaging in several projects with certain citizens of London, he contracted a large debt, and sold much of his paternal estate." He died March 19, 1593, and was buried in the south aisle chapel of Norwich Cathedral with his ancestors. On a mural monument are the effigy of him and his lady kneeling at a desk, with the quartered crest of Heydon, and the arms of Waterhouse of Hickling, quarterly ermine, in the first and fourth, and, *azure*, a leopard's face, *or*, in the second and third. The mottoes and inscriptions over him and his lady are given in full by Blomefield. In 1571 his brother, Sir Christopher, was administrator of the Duke of Norfolk's estate.

16. Sir Christopher Heydon, eldest son and chief heir of the above, had his education at the University of Cambridge, and afterwards travelled in many foreign countries. He was



High Steward of the Cathedral Church at Norwich, and was knighted at the sacking of Cadiz by Robert Earl of Essex (1596). "It appears that this knight and Sir John Heydon, his brother, were concerned with the Earl of Essex (reign of Elizabeth), and that they both had a pardon passed in 1601. When the Privy Council, in 1620 (reign of James I.), issued letters to all the nobility and gentry in England, requesting a loan for the recovery of the Palatinate, Sir Christopher (who earnestly solicited it) sent a letter to the Privy Council, acquainting them that the Papists were as ready to assist the Emperor as the King was to assist the King of Bohemia, and that they met at the house of Mr. Henry Kervile, at St. Mary's in Marshland; upon which Kervile was sent for and imprisoned, but was soon after discharged, and the matter dropped. Sir Christopher was an eminent scholar, and published a 'Defence of Judicial Astrology,' printed at Cambridge in 1603, in quarto; a work (as Wood observes) of no common reading, and carried on with no mean acquirements."

This work may be found (1877) in the British Museum, and though obscured, of course, by many fanciful and astrological notions, yet on a few points, as on the *three degrees*, natural, spiritual, and celestial, as well as the influence of heavenly powers upon the earth, contains a kind of foreshadowing of some ideas taught more distinctly afterwards in the writings of Swedenborg.

February 10, 1613, he was burned out at Baconsthorp. "He resided as much at Saxlingham as at Baconsthorp, and in the chancel of the church at Saxlingham buried his



first Lady, Mirabel, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Kivet, Knight, Merchant of London, erecting over her a most curious and sumptuous monument, which takes up almost the whole area, enclosed with iron rails, there being just room enough left to go round the monument, which is raised in the form of an Egyptian pyramid, of marble and stone, supported by pillars, and reaching almost to the top of the chancel, having an urn on the summit. In the arch under the pyramid, and which supports it, is the effigy of a lady kneeling on a cushion, with a desk before her, on which lies a Bible opened, with these words, 'I am sure that my Redeemer liveth, etc.' Over her head an oval stone projects, so curiously polished as to reflect her effigy as from a looking-glass; and at each corner are two children, in all, four boys and four girls, on their knees. There are four steps to ascend to the effigy of the lady." Blomefield continues with a very long and elaborate account of the ornaments, inscriptions, hieroglyphic figures and coats of arms, on this monument, saying that Sir Christopher published a volume in explanation of them. He also gives the particulars concerning his wives, with the monument and inscription of the second one, buried in the church at Baconsthorp. In conjunction with his second wife, "Dame Temperance," daughter of Sir Wymunde Carew, he granted the lands of Patslee Manor to Caius College, Cambridge; and died possessed of very large estates. He had five sons, Sir William, Sir John, Henry, Nathaniel, and Thomas, and four daughters. He died at Baconsthorp in 1623.



17. Sir William Heydon, eldest son of the above, succeeded him. He was sent by King Charles I. with the Duke of Buckingham, 7000 men and 100 ships, in the unfortunate expedition against France for the recovery of the Palatinate. Sir William was treasurer of the expedition, and was slain in the battle at the Rhee in 1627. Some accounts say he was drowned. Weever speaks of him as "one, the loss of whom is much lamented at the present hour, a worthy knight and gentleman, a valiant soldier and expert engineer." He died without issue, and was succeeded by his brother.

18. Sir John Heydon, who had accompanied him to Rhee as a subordinate in command. Wood (*Ath. Ox.* vol. ii. p. 26) says "he was as great a scholar as a soldier, especially in the mathematics, was created LL.D. at Oxford, December 20, 1642, being then Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance to King Charles I." He was also a member of Charles's Privy Council. He suffered much in the King's cause; and died October 26, 1657; leaving two sons, Christopher, afterwards a knight, William, and three daughters. Christopher died before his father. One of the inscriptions speaks of Sir John as "the ancient and noble" knight. He was succeeded by his second son.

19. William Heydon, of Baconsthorp, who sold and confirmed the estate here to Mr. Bridges, woollen draper, in St. Paul's Churchyard, London. The principal record we find of him is that inscribed on his tomb: "Here lyeth the body of William Heydon, Esq., second son of Sir John Heydon, and last heir of that family, who died September 7, A.D. 1689."





Thus endeth the eldest branch of the Norfolk line. Blomefield follows with information about the daughters; while in the State Papers and other documents many particulars are mentioned of Sir Christopher and the two Heydons concerned at Rhee, with several other members of the family. In the reign of Elizabeth one of them fought a duel, and had his hand cut off by a sword; the hand, preserved in spirits, may still be seen in the Museum of Canterbury. An extended account of this duel, between a Sir William Heydon and Sir Robert Mansel, or Mansfield, is given, with the documents, in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for May 1853. Several living representatives of this branch of the family are now found among the clergy of the Established Church, and in London, in the law, among the latter, Thomas Heydon, Esq., Solicitor, 9 King's Road, Bedford Row.

On visiting Norfolk in June 1877, we find the things written, all confirmed, together with a number of interesting particulars. Heydon Chapel, at Norwich Cathedral, is gone, but its place is given on the old ground plan of the Cathedral, and the marks which its pointed roof made against the outside wall are still distinctly visible. Another lower building occupies the site.

We looked into the quaint old church, St. Michael's at Pleas, in Norwich, where John de Heydon was rector in 1349, and saw some rich old tapestry hangings, placed there in 1573, and attended service both in the Cathedral and in St. Peter's, Mancroft, in which latter was buried the William Heydon killed by the rebels in Kett's insurrection in 1549.



On visiting the town of Heydon, we found a beautiful district of country, and were very kindly received at the rectory by Rev. Mr. Shand, who showed us the fine old church, built in what is known as "the perpendicular" or early English style, and introduced us also at Heydon Hall, the residence of Mr. Bulwer. On the way over through the park, he pointed out the site of the ancient Hall, which existed before the present one was built. This one, erected in 1581, is a fine specimen of its kind, filled with paintings, books, and the other usual indications of wealth and refinement.

Baconsthorp is seven miles away to the north. In the church we found a monument of the Heydons, with kneeling effigies, and the old brass plate of Sir John fastened in the window sill.

The ruins of the old Hall lie about three-fourths of a mile from the church, in a beautiful grove or clump of trees. The buildings covered about an acre of ground, and were surrounded by a moat, crossed at the entrance by a bridge. The outer wall, to a height of some fifteen or twenty feet, is still standing in its whole circuit. The square enclosure is occupied as a garden. The lower storey of each of the four corner towers is left, though in ruins. The large front tower is standing to the height of two storeys, the lower rooms being used as a woodhouse and toolroom.

The old gateway, of imposing structure, flanked by two lofty octagon towers, and situated about fifty yards in advance of the tower and bridge, has been converted into a



spacious farmhouse, and kept in perfect repair. It is now the property of G. Thurston Mott, Esq., and is called Baconsthorp Hall. We were very kindly received at the rectory, and at the house, by those having charge of the premises, were politely shown over the grounds, and physically refreshed by an offering of bread, milk, and wine. The old ruins had a special interest for us from the fact that they had been the home of the Heydons for many generations, and of *no other family*, they having built them from 1440 to 1495, and lived in them until 1613, when the interior wooden portions of them were destroyed by fire.

In Mr. Daniel Gurney's "Record of the House of Gurney," the pedigree of the Heydons is given at some length, and nearly complete. He states that he has in his possession several original letters of the second Sir Christopher and Sir William, his son, bearing dates from 1579 to 1602, and prints several of these in full in his work (London, 1848 and 1858). I find also that younger sons of the family appear frequently in the history as rectors in various parishes in the county, and one of the line, though deceased 250 years ago, is still remembered and spoken of in the neighbourhood as "thé great Sir Christopher."



## CHAPTER IV.

## THE WATFORD BRANCH.

THE exact connection of this branch with the Norfolk line is nowhere distinctly stated in the authorities consulted, but from a careful comparison of names and dates, with attendant circumstances, appears to be as follows:—

Sir Richard Heydon, second son of Simeon Heydon, the fourth heir of the Norfolk line, lost his life, it would seem, pretty well advanced in age, in the wars which Edward III. and the Black Prince waged in those days against France. At that time the Manor of Cassiobury, at Watford, was a royal domain. The Black Prince died in 1376, and Edward himself died the next year, June 1377. We find no record of the Heydons at Watford until the year 1400, when John Heydon, the first of the Watford branch, died there, *possessed of that portion of the old Manor of Cassiobury which is known as the Grove*, and which is now, 1877, the seat of the present Earl Clarendon. According to a later record, the Heydon family held this manor directly of the King, “by fealty, suit of court, and an annual rent of thirty-seven shillings and twopence.”

It would seem, therefore, that this John was the son of Sir Richard, and must have had this manor conferred upon him by the King at a nominal rent, in consideration of his father's services in the wars. It is spoken of both by Clutter-





buck and Chauncey as "the ancient seat of the family of Heydons." We have, then,

1. John Heydon, of the Grove, as the head of this line. His wife's name was Joan. Some accounts say he lived till March 1, 1408, which is most probable. He was succeeded by his son,

2. William Heydon, of the Grove, Esq., who, with his mother Joan, rebuilt or restored, in honour of his father, the small aisle or chapel dedicated to St. Katherine, on the south side of the chancel in Watford Church, and placed there a tablet with an inscription. His arms are carved in stone under the capital of one of the pillars which separate this chapel from the chancel. The date of his death is uncertain, as his inscription is worn off.

It is difficult to fix his immediate successor. The books give it as William. But as the William whom they name did not die till 1515, there must have been one or two generations intervening. The only one I am able to certify, therefore, is either his grandson or great-grandson and heir.

3. William Heydon, of the Grove, Esq., who died in April 1515, and, according to Salmon's History of Herts County (Lond., 1728), was buried in Westminster Abbey. He married the daughter of Robert Aubury, of the county of Bucks, by whom he had the son and heir who succeeded him, viz.,

4. William Heydon, of the Grove, who married Alice, daughter of Alexander Newton. His will is dated May 8, 37th of Henry VIII. (1546); he died the next year. He



appears to have left several sons, for the one who succeeded him is called "his *eldest* son and heir."

5. Henry Heydon, of the Grove, who was thirty-eight years of age at his father's decease, and married Anne, daughter and heir of Edward Twyboe, of Chipton, county of Gloucester. His son and heir was

6. Francis Heydon, of the Grove, Esq., who married Frances, daughter of Arthur Longville, Esq. In the 25th Elizabeth (1583) he was constituted Sheriff of this county. Arms—quarterly, argent and azure, a cross engrailed counter-changed; crest—a talbot passant spotted sable. He had five sons and four daughters, the dates of whose baptizing are all given in Clutterbuck. By an indenture dated Sept. 30, 1602 (44 Elizabeth), this Francis conveyed the Manor, the Grove, to Sir Clement Scudamore, who again, in 1631, sold it to the Ashtons. The Heydons possessing other property in Watford, remained there after the sale. His sons were Edward, Jeronomy, Charles, Henry, and Francis. The family owned and built "Watford Place, New Street," and, according to the accounts, the eldest son succeeded to that property, who was

7. Edward Heydon, of New Street, Esq. His arms are given as "quarterly, or and azure, a cross engrailed, quarterly counterchanged; crest on a wreath, a talbot passant, argent spotted sable." He was succeeded by

8. Michael Heydon, who (Dec. 18, 1614) granted a lease of "Watford Place, situated in New Street, with its appurtenances, for the term of an hundred years, at the yearly



rental of £8," to Lady Morrison, who "placed therein Thomas Valentine, A.M., Preacher of God's Word, and four poor women, in several rooms, parcel of said messuage, to continue therein during their lives and good behaviour; and intended that after their departure thence other like learned preachers and poor widows should be successively placed in their stead during the term of the lease." On inquiry in Watford in May 1877, I find the old buildings there, and the charity to the "four poor women" continued.

There was at Watford a Daniel Heydon as late as 1765; but I find none later than that.

*Watford Church.*—Says Clutterbuck, "This church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, stands at the upper end of the town, on the west side of the main street. It is constructed of flints and stones loosely cemented together and covered with a coat of plaster; and consists of a square tower surmounted by a short spire, a nave, and two side aisles, and a chancel, with its adjacent chapels, covered with lead. The east end of the nave is terminated by a handsome gallery built with oak and supported by pillars of the same material, which was erected in the year 1766. On the south side of the church is a small aisle or chapel dedicated to St. Katharine."

This is the chapel spoken of above as having been rebuilt by William Heydon, and which contains the tablets of the Heydons for many generations. The inscriptions are now mostly effaced; and the new organ placed there within a year or two occupies this chapel, and so nearly fills it—a



margin of only three or four inches remaining around it—that it is impossible now to examine the Heydon monuments. The chapel on the opposite side is occupied by the monuments of the Earls of Essex.

Our visit to Watford was in May, 1877, when, by an introduction obtained through our good friend Dr. Charles R. Cottin, of London, we were kindly allowed by Lord and Lady Clarendon to view every portion of their fine estate and mansion, “The Grove;” and at the vicarage were kindly received and shown through it by the Rev. R. L. James, the present incumbent, who also placed the records of the parish before us, and added from his own knowledge a number of interesting facts to our information.

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## CHAPTER V.

### THE DEVON LINE.

1. THOMAS DE HEYDON, of Norfolk. 2. William Heydon, of Heydon, same line, the father of the first of the Devon line, who was,

3. John de Heydon, younger son of above, and younger brother of the William who is the third of the Norfolk line, “Judge in this county (Devon) in the first year of the reign of King Edward I. (1273), according to this ensuing record taken out of the Tower of London by Henry St. George Richmond. This gentleman was a younger branch of a knightly stock, so called, which flourished in the eastern





parts of England" (*i.e.* Norfolk). "He married and had issue;" among others,

4. Robert Haydon (in some accounts called Robert de Heydon), who appears to have been the first to change the spelling of the first syllable by inserting an *a* instead of the *e*, which thenceforward distinguishes the Devon line. He settled at Boughwood, an estate in the parish of Harpford, near Ottery St. Mary, county of Devon, near which the family afterwards continued. He lived at Boughwood in the 19th year of Edward I. His wife's name was Joan. The same year he deeded this estate to his son Henry and his wife Julian. The deed is attested by Thomas Frances, Ralph de Todwill, and several others.

5. Henry Haydon appears to have married his own cousin, or a near relation, as this Julian is stated to be "daughter and heir of Haydon of Ebford;" which made said Henry "possessor of several thousands per annum." Their son,

6. William Haydon, inherited Boughwood, followed by his son,

7. Robert Haydon, of Boughwood, who was succeeded by his son,

8. John Haydon, of Boughwood, whose son,

9. Henry Haydon, of Boughwood and Ebford, seems to have been the first to have come into full possession of both estates. This was in the 20th year of Richard II., 1397. He was succeeded by his son,

9*a*. John Haydon, of Boughwood and Ebford, who came into possession the 8th year of Henry IV., 1407. He



was married and had issue, which seems not to have lived to inherit; so he was succeeded by his brother,

10. William Haydon, of Lymston, who married and had issue, Richard (died young), then Jeffrey, John, Richard, and William.

11. Richard Haydon, fourth son of the above William, was living on the estates the 15th year of Edward IV., 1476, his older brother apparently leaving no issue. He had two sons, Richard and John, and one daughter, Jane, married to Robert Gilbert, of Powderham; and was succeeded by his son,

12. Richard Haydon, of Boughwood and Ebford, who was living there in the 13th year of Henry VIII., 1522. He married Joan, daughter of Morice Trent, of Ottery St. Mary, and had three sons—(1) Thomas Haydon, of Boughwood and Ebford; (2) John Haydon, of Cadhay; (3) George Haydon, of Hornesseys, who married Agnes, daughter of Merrifield, and had issue; John Haydon, "Sheriff and Alderman of London, who gave more than £3000 for the relief of the poor, also money to be let to enterprising young men at a low rate of interest," besides many other benefactions.

Martha, his widow, gave by will a charity for the relief of the poor to the Company of Haberdashers in London; and in "the Minories," just to the east of Aldgate, there are now (1877) "Haydon Square" and "Haydon Street," which possibly may commemorate his administration; but I had not time to inquire the matter out.



This Richard had also a daughter, Joan, married to John Coram, of Ottery St. Mary.

John, the second son, "whose genius," says Prince, "inclining him to the study of the Common Law, he became eminent for his skill and knowledge therein. He was first a member, and after that a bencher, of Lincoln's Inn. He obtained from Henry VIII. a charter for incorporating the parish of St. Mary Ottery in this county (that was on the transfer from the Romanists to the Protestants), and was the first governor of that corporation himself. He procured (1536) that King's letters patent for the founding of a grammar school in that town also, and was very instrumental in getting it well endowed,—a matter of much greater use and advantage than most may apprehend, there being nothing more beneficial to the commonwealth than to have the youth thereof well instituted in learning and morality; whereby they become the more serviceable to their country, and more useful in their generations." This school I visited in April 1877, finding it still in the original building, which has been added to, and in the receipt of its endowment. It is intended to fit students to enter the universities, and has accommodation for thirty scholars. The Poet Coleridge was educated here, and his father was head master of the school. The room in which the poet was born was pointed out to me.

This John, continues Prince, "also rebuilt or repaired the porch belonging to the parish church of that town as an argument of his faith and piety towards God. But as to his



charity towards man, he was a liberal benefactor of the poor, not to those only who lived within the confines of his own parish, but in other places; witness his benefactions to the poor of the city of Exeter, to whom he left, by deed dated the 6th of March, 30th of Eliz., the yearly sum of forty shillings and eightpence to be bestowed in bread at Christmas and Easter for ever. He performed, further, a piece of more general charity, wherein rich and poor are equally concerned unto this day. A little below his house at *Cudhay*, the two rivers of Tale and Otter meet; where, especially upon great rains and floods, they made a rapid stream, and yielded a dangerous passage to the traveller that way. This current was this gentleman pleased, at his own proper charges, to crown with a fair stone bridge of several arches, which stands there as a lasting monument of his worth and merit unto this day."

This bridge, the scene of a battle in one of the civil wars, remained until 1845, when a great flood swept it away. An iron bridge of similar size and appearance now fills its place. At Ottery we saw a picture of the old one, still held in grateful remembrance there.

Although "his profession was the law," says Prince, "which is a kind of vocal war and tongue combat, yet his practice was peace, whereof he was a studious conservator among his neighbours. He did not blow the coal of discord for his own private advantage, and to warm his hands thereby (as some mean sneaking spirits often do); but his business was to extinguish contention and prevent its





growing into a flame: all which excellent and desirable qualifications rendered his death the ground of a general lamentation among all his neighbours when that time came."

He married Joan, heir of Cadhay, daughter of Hugh Granville, Gent., and they came into possession of Cadhay, where "he new builded the house and made it a very fair and gentile dwelling, and enlarged the demenses thereof."

Mr. Elihu Burritt, in his "Walk from London to Land's End," page 143, thus speaks of Ottery and its church, which lie eleven miles north-east of Exeter. "I now faced directly southward, and walked down a beautiful valley to Ottery St. Mary, a most unique and acute-angular town. Indeed, the streets make a very maze of angles, if that term may be applied to any other lines than circles. Here is one of the most beautiful churches in the kingdom, internally. It is really a *bijou* of a cathedral, worth a long journey to see. Still it is better to see it without expectation, to come upon it accidentally as I did, without knowing beforehand of such an edifice in an out-of-the-way village like Ottery. The interior embellishment is as full an illustration of what modern taste, art, and wealth can effect as anything you will find in England outside of the Temple Church in London. It has a long and interesting history, including a century or two when it was the *appanage* of the hierarchy of Normandy, and belonged to the Church of Rouen. Oliver, the cathedral bruiser, smote its monumental statuary and interior sculpture with some bad blows in his day, and it has run the gauntlet



of 500 years of peril and difficulty. But it has come up out of the ashes of its former self a very phoenix of broad and beautiful plumage."

The other books speak in a similar strain, and a quarto volume has been published elaborately describing the church and its monuments. Underneath the chancel is the old family vault of the Haydons, containing, I was told by the sexton, fifteen coffins. The monuments of the family are on the northern side of the chancel, and are still kept in thorough repair. The arms, also, are still freshly blazoned, "Argent three barrs, gemells Azure; on a chief gules a barrulet dancette Or. Crest, the white lion vulning the black bull; which was the ancient impress or cognizance of this family, as appears by the seal of Peter de Heydon, A. 8 Edward II. (1315), where round the edge was the motto, *I eo ay, Pris et Morier.*" On the monuments, the Grenville arms, *three clarions*, are quartered with the Haydons.

The present Guide Book says, "The original door in the southern porch, which was built by John Haydon, still remains, and the iron handle bears the initials 'J. H., 1571.'" I saw the old door and the old key bearing the initials.

Cadhay, the old family seat or mansion, lies about a mile from the church. Speaking of the "Ancient Mansions in the Parish," Rev. Dr. Cornish, in his notes on the church and parish, says, "Cadhay, from its position and importance, claims our first notice." Then, after giving an account of its previous history, and of John Haydon's acquiring and rebuilding it, continues, "The Haydons continued at Cadhay many



descents ; and it is fortunate, in these days, in having fallen into the hands of an owner who takes a laudable interest in the maintenance of his inheritance. The mansion is kept in perfect repair and habitable condition, and if only the bad taste of a bygone generation could be reversed by the careful and judicious restoration of those portions which were unfortunately modernized about the middle of the last century, few houses of its class and antiquity would bear a comparison with it. The quaint quadrangle (or court of the kings, as it is called, from the effigies of King Henry VIII. and his three sovereign children, which stand, one over each of the entrances, in the centre of the sides of the quadrangle) is readily shown to strangers, and is well worth a visit."

The present owner, referred to above, is Sir Thomas Hare, Bart., who has inherited it from the person to whom it passed after the Haydons had it, some time in the last century. Although non-resident, he also keeps in repair the Haydon monuments in the church. We visited the old mansion in April 1877, and were kindly shown through not only the "Court of the Kings," but, as soon as the reason of our visit became known, all the other apartments also, from drawing-room to kitchen. The long picture gallery, the open square court, the large banqueting hall, together with the general plan, arrangement, and style of architecture, reminded as strongly of Haddon Hall, though modified in particulars, and on a much reduced scale. The domain consists of 100 acres.

This John Haydon, second son of Richard, and first owner



of Cadhay, died in 1587, and is the first Haydon buried in Ottery Church. Being without children, he left Cadhay to his grandnephew, Robert Haydon, the son of his nephew, Thomas, who was the son of his oldest brother Thomas. Besides his monument, on the north side of the altar, there is also over the south porch, inside the church, a large tablet, bearing a long inscription to his memory, in Latin verse; which Rev. Dr. Bayley, of Palace Gardens Church, London, has very kindly put into English verse for me, as follows:—

## ELEGY

ON THE DEATH OF THAT MOST GLORIOUS MAN, NOW DEPARTED THIS  
LIFE, JOHN HAYDON,  
KNIGHT.

SAY mortals, who departs from earth  
And bears its fruits away?  
Say, can the rich boast o'er the poor  
In death's tremendous day?

All, all are dust, and frail, and weak,  
And vanish like a shade;  
Our tears, the loss proclaims to all  
Our Haydon's death has made.

Thy virtuous deeds will still remain  
Thy charity to prove;  
And ages long to come will gain  
Thy gifts of generous love.

Sanctioned by Royal Henry's care,  
Thy courts of learning stand,  
Our earnest youth thy labours share;  
A strong yet playful band.

Your goodly bridge, thy noble gift,  
Shall spread thy fame around;  
This porch shall tell, to all who come,  
Where faith in God was found.





Studious of law, loved by the poor,  
To peace a constant friend ;  
Come boys, and youth, and aged men,  
And mourn with me his end.

Render to him the heartfelt praise,  
To constant goodness due ;  
Bid envy hide nor dare to stain  
The noble and the true.

May Haydon's spirit long be felt  
Midst scenes his virtue blest ;  
He who on earth to Christ was true,  
In heaven with Christ shall rest.

We resume the direct line, therefore, with

13. Thomas Haydon, of Ebford, Esq., eldest son of the above Richard, who married Joan, daughter of Richard Weeks, of Honey Church, and had issue—(1) Thomas, who succeeded him ; (2) a daughter, who married Walter Leigh ; (3) Jane, married to Richard Williams ; and (4) Margaret, married to Thomas Browning.

14. Thomas Haydon, of Hills (Hills), in Kilmiston, Boughwood, and Ebford, son of the above, and nephew of John Haydon of Cadhay. He married Christiana, daughter and heir of Robert Tidorsleigh, of Tidorsleigh, in Dorsetshire, leaving issue at his death, two sons, Robert and Thomas. Robert became heir of his great-uncle John.

15. Robert Haydon, on the death of his great-uncle, removed his family to Cadhay, and resided there. He married Joan, eldest daughter of Sir Amias Paulet, of George Hinton, Somerset, and had three sons, Gideon, Amias, and Drew, and one daughter, Margaret. He was also Justice of the Peace, and was living in 1620. He was succeeded by his eldest son.



16. Gideon Haydon, Esq., of Ebford and Cadhay, "a very worthy honest gentleman," who married Margaret, daughter of John Davy, Esq., of Creedy, and had seven sons and five daughters. Several of the sons grew to manhood, and were living in 1630. The eldest, Gideon, succeeded him. The names of the others do not appear. I take it there must have been a *John*, *William*, and a *James*, and that they were the John, William, and James. who emigrated to Boston in 1630-3. The reasons for this conclusion I state when I treat of the American branch.

17. Gideon Haydon, of Boughwood, Ebford, and Cadhay, Esq., a worthy man, whom Prince speaks of as living at that time in possession of the estates, 1669. He left one son,

18. William Haydon, Gent., of Cadhay, born in 1642, who died in 1722, in the 80th year of his age, and is buried in the church in Ottery, where the inscription on his monument is still plain.

19. Gideon Haydon, Esq., of Cadhay, son of the above, born in 1665, and died at Cadhay in 1706, in the 41st year of his age, and fourteen years in advance of his father; being buried in Ottery Church, where I read his inscription.

The further continuation of this line is not so easy to trace, and as my interest follows mainly the American branch, I have not made the attempt. The book on Ottery says, "Some years ago, there was at Cadhay a curious picture of John (*Gideon* is most probably meant, as *John* died without issue) Haydon and Joan his wife, where John is represented on one side of an altar, together with his sons kneeling, and



Joan with her daughters on the other side, all in the attitude of prayer. This picture is supposed to be still in possession of some member of the family. The Ottery branch of the Haydon family is represented by Mr. Frank Scott Haydon of the Record Office" (Chancery Lane, London, W.C.). Sometime about 1750, Cadhay came into possession of William Peere Williams, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, and author of the Reports; who died there in 1766. He most probably *inherited* it, by virtue of being a descendant of Richard Williams, whose wife was Jane Haydon, daughter of Thomas (No. 12), niece of John, and sister of the Thomas (No. 13) to whom John originally bequeathed the estate. If this conjecture be correct, Cadhay has not changed hands, except by inheritance, for the whole 700 years, Sir Thomas Hare having received it, through the female line, from the Williamses, as he himself believes.

Haydons, descendants of this line, are still found at Tiverton, and a number having this spelling are in London. The late well-known B. R. Haydon, the painter, a native of Plymouth, belonged to this line.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### THE AMERICAN BRANCH.

I ASSUME that John, William, and James Haydon, three brothers, the immigrant ancestors of the American lines, and who appeared in Boston, Dorchester, and Charlestown in



1630, were sons of Gideon Haydon of Cadhay, No. 15 in the Devon line, for the following reasons:—(1.) The family tradition is that we are descended from the Devonshire branch. (2.) The immigrants, when they landed, had the Devonshire spelling of the name. (3.) They evidently came over in close connection with the Massachusetts Bay Company, whose headquarters were at Exeter, and whose officers and members were near neighbours of the Haydons. (4.) The Haydons were few in number. All the accounts agree that the Lymston branch, for a time distinct, probably in a line of younger sons, became at length reabsorbed in the Ebford-Cadhay branch; and all the places mentioned in connection with them are in a little radius of ten or twelve miles. Hence the question arises, Where else could they have come from? (5.) We know that the said Gideon had several younger sons grown to manhood in 1630, but who thereafter suddenly disappeared from the scene, there being, so far as I have been able to learn, no record of their marriages, settlement, decease, or descendants in England. (6.) I find from the State Papers that the family were engaged in the shipping business at that time. In 1628, September 28, "Letters of marque were issued to Gideon Haydon and others, owners of the ship *Dove* of Lymston, 80 tons, commanded by Gideon Haydon" (the oldest son). I find also that five months previously, namely, April 15, 1628, "Letters of marque were issued to ship *Phoenix* of Dartmouth, owned by Captain Rambey Gilbert, but commanded by John Haydon" (this, I infer, was second son of Gideon), "tonnage, 100."





I discover no mention of the third son, William by name, nor of a James, until two and six years later, when the three brothers, John, William, and James, appear together in Boston, Dorchester, and Charlestown, in 1630, 1634, and 1637. William soon removed to Windsor, Ct., where he became the head of the Windsor or Connecticut branch. John remained behind, and became the head of the Braintree or Massachusetts branch of the family. To proceed with our line, therefore, we have, as next to Gideon, sen., the fifteenth of the Devon line,

17. John Haydon, his second son, who arrived in Boston, it is said, in 1630, being made Freeman May 14, 1634. The Massachusetts Bay Company's Record spells the name *Haydon*. June 6, 1639, his "fine, for entertaining an unlicensed servant, as he did it ignorantly, was remitted to him." In 1640 was in Braintree; the second entry in the town record of births is of his son Jonathan. Will dated January 31, 1678; proved July 26, 1684; recorded Suffolk Probate, vi. 483; his widow, Susanna, was living in 1695. The Vinton Memorial gives the list of his children, and follows out the different lines, where they may be found. But as I am descended from his eighth child and youngest son, Nehemiah. I purpose to follow only his line.

18. Nehemiah Haydon, of Braintree, eighth child of the above, born February 14, 1647-8; married Hannah Neale, daughter of Henry Neale, of Braintree; he (Nehemiah) was "a wealthy and influential man of that town;" Selectman from 1706 to 1716, ten years. Was often placed on im-



portant committees at town meetings. He and his wife Hannah were members of the church in Braintree, Middle Precinct, at Mr. Miles' ordination, 1711. His will is dated January 6, 1717-8; proved February 28, 1717-8; record in Suffolk Probate, xxiii. 143. His wife Hannah survived him. They left nine children, all given in the Vinton Memorial. My line proceeds from Nehemiah, their eldest.

19. Nehemiah Hayden, of Braintree, eldest son of the above (twenty-seven in Vinton Memorial), born May 16, 1680; married, first, Mary —, second, Lydia —; will dated October 24, 1747; proved March 7, 1748; record in Suffolk Probate, xlii. 116. Called "Gentleman" in his will, and "Lieutenant" in inventory of his personal estate, which amounts to £573, 11s.; appoints James Penniman and Samuel Niles, jun., his executors; had eight children by first wife, viz., Mary, Nehemiah, Elijah, Daniel, Zechariah, Lydia, Dorcas, and James; and one by second wife, Ruth, born 1740. Dorcas married Captain Jonathan Thayer, and joined the Church 1758. My descent is from the eldest son and second child.

20. Nehemiah Hayden, of Braintree, born April 16, 1709; married August 31, 1732, by Rev. Samuel Niles, of Middle Precinct, to Rachel Vinton, daughter of Thomas and Hannah Vinton, of Braintree; she was admitted to full communion in the Church, November 23, 1746, on which occasion their four children, Rachel, William, Mary, and Phoebe, were baptized. The baptizing of their other children are subsequently recorded: Dorcas, 1747; Nehemiah, 1749; Alethea,



1751; Hannah, 1754; Sarah, 1758; Ann, 1760. He purchased the property on the hill, near "the corner of the pond," in south parish, known since as "the Captain Dyer Farm," and the house he built is still standing and inhabited, though it was moved across the road about 1792 to make room for a larger one built by his son William, my grandfather, on the old site. Though small, the old house was considerably ornamented internally with the carving so much in use in that day. He died in 1790, aged 81. Nehemiah, his second son, lived to be married, beyond which I have no account. He was succeeded in the property by his eldest son,

21. William Hayden, of Braintree, born about 1738, baptized November 23, 1746; married a first wife, name not ascertained, by whom he had two sons, Robert (?) and Thomas, and, I believe, three daughters, Mrs. Orcutt, who lived on the old place, Mrs. Healy, and one Jane (?), who remained unmarried. He married for his second wife, Deborah Noyes, daughter of Mr. John Noyes, 1680, by whom he had one son, John Noyes, my father, and no other children. He died about 1794.

22. John Noyes Hayden, youngest child of the above, born 1784, studied for the ministry with Rev. Mr. Chadlock, Hardwich, Mass., and was licensed to preach among the Baptists, but subsequently devoted himself to education. Settled at Schodack, Rensselaer Co., N.Y., 1814; married Sarah Stebbins Jesup, only daughter of Joseph Jesup, Esq., of Schodack, 1815, having but one child, myself, and dying there in May 1857, aged 73.



23. William Benjamin Hayden, only child of the above, born at Schodack, Christmas Day, 1816; in mercantile business several years in Boston, Buffalo, and New York; married Sophie Walker Woods, youngest child of Rev. Dr. Leonard Woods, sen., of Andover Theological Seminary, Mass., June 23, 1841, and settled as pastor of the New Jerusalem Society, Portland, Maine, U.S.A., September 15, 1850. Resigned September, 1876, and by the invitation of kind friends in London, coming here, has had opportunity to pursue this inquiry.

Very full genealogies of the various branches of the American Haydens may be found in the Vinton Family Memorial, 8vo, British Museum and Boston Free Library; in Stiles' History of Windsor, Ct.; and the Thayer Family Memorial, Boston. If others of the name, or interested in it, shall desire to write the history on a larger scale, my notes and knowledge will be at their service. In England I have found many persons, not of the name, given to genealogical studies, who have afforded me much help and encouragement, taking apparently as much interest in this history as I have taken in it myself.

94 CORNWALL GARDENS, SOUTH KENSINGTON,  
LONDON, S.W., *July*, 1877.

1922

















